

Attorney Docket No. : 20496-323

Page 6, before the first full paragraph, which begins with "Below, the invention,"
please insert --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 7, before the first full paragraph, which begins with "In the figures," please
insert --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice and substitute the new claims 12-20
therefor, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1)(i).

--12. (New) A roll stand with a pair of work rolls (1, 2) for rolling a metal strip (B), comprising back-up rolls (8, 9, 10, 11) which provide lateral support to their respectively allocated work rolls (1, 2), with support forces directed towards the work rolls (1, 2) being able to be applied to said back-up rolls (8, 9, 10, 11) by means of several force generation devices which are arranged along said back up rolls (8, 9, 10, 11), and comprising support rolls or intermediate rolls (3, 4) which are borne by a chock (7) which can be slid into the roll stand (W1, W2) in the direction of the longitudinal axis of said chock, and wherein said chock can be withdrawn from said roll stand, with each support roll or intermediate roll supporting an associated work roll (1, 2) in a direction which is essentially perpendicular to the direction of movement of the metal strip (B), wherein the back-up rolls (8, 9, 10, 11) can be positioned from an idle position in which they are arranged outside the region where the chock (7) of the support roll or

intermediate roll (3, 4) moves during slide-in or withdrawal, to an operating position in which they rest against the work roll (1, 2), wherein the back-up roll (8, 9, 10, 11) is borne by a support beam (12, 13, 14, 15) and that the force generation device acts on this support beam (12, 13, 14, 15).

13. (New) The roll stand according to claim 12, wherein the force generation device moves the back-up roll (8, 9, 10, 11) from the idle position to the operating position.

14. (New) The roll stand according to claim 12, wherein the force generation device is a hydraulically or pneumatically operable actuating cylinder (20, 21, 22, 23).

15. (New) The roll stand according to claim 12, wherein the force generation device is a mechanically adjustable spindle.

16. (New) The roll stand according to claim 12, wherein a bearing arrangement (18) is provided in which the back-up roll (8, 9, 10, 11) is supported, at least in certain sections along its longitudinal extension, by the support beam (12, 13, 14, 15).

17. (New) The roll stand according to claim 16, wherein the bearing arrangement is provided by at least one hydrostatic bearing (18).

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18. (New) The roll stand according to claim 16, wherein the bearing arrangement consists of roller bearings (118) which are arranged so as to be regularly spaced apart along the back-up roll (8, 9, 10, 11).

19. (New) The roll stand according to claim 13, wherein the support beam (12, 13, 14, 15) is divided into two detachably interconnected components (12a, 12b) in longitudinal direction of the back-up roll (8, 9, 10, 11), and the first component (12a) bears the back-up roll (8, 9, 10, 11) and the second component is coupled to the force generation device.

18. (New) The roll stand according to claim 16, wherein the first component which bears the back-up roll (8, 9, 10, 11) is held to the second component (12b) of the support beam (12, 13, 14, 15) so as to be slidable along the longitudinal direction of said first component.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the last line which recites: "Fig. 1 is provided for the Abstract."